

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The non-final Office Action of September 8, 2004, has been carefully reviewed and these remarks are responsive thereto. Reconsideration and allowance of the instant application are respectfully requested. Claims 17-18 and 33-34 have been amended. Claims 1-16 and 19-32 have been canceled. Claims 35-50 have been added. Claims 17-18, and 33-50 remain pending.

Applicants wish to thank the Examiner for the courtesies extended in allowing Applicants the opportunity to conduct the Examiner Interview on November 16, 2004. In the Interview, it was agreed that the art of record fails to teach or suggest the features of Applicants' original dependent claims 4, 11, 16, 19, and 20. In response thereto, Applicants have amended dependent claims 17-18 and 33-34 to correspond with new independent claims and have added new claims 35-50 to correspond to place the claims in condition for allowance responsive to the Examiner Interview. In particular, Applicants have added new claims 35, 37, 42, 43, and 44, which are Applicants' original dependent claims 4, 11, 16, 19, and 20 rewritten into independent form. New independent claims 39-41 and 50 include many of the features in Applicants canceled dependent claims 13-15, 20, 26, 29, and 31.

Claims 1-34 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Adan et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,373,047, hereinafter referred to as *Adan*) in view of Kreisel et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,088,516, hereinafter *Kreisel*). However, as accurately determined by the Examiner, the references do not disclose or fairly teach the pending claims. None of the cited art of record, alone or in combination, teaches or suggests the features of claims 17-18 and 33-50. Applicants submit this response with the agreement by the Examiner to withdrawal the rejection of the pending claims over the art of record.


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Response Dated December 8, 2004
Reply to non-final Office Action of September 8, 2004

CONCLUSION

All rejections having been addressed, Applicants respectfully submit that the instant application is in condition for allowance, and respectfully solicit prompt notification of the same. Should the Examiner find that a telephonic or personal interview would expedite passage to issue of the present application, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number indicated below. No fee is believed due, however, if any fees are required or if an overpayment has been made the Commissioner is authorized to charge or credit Deposit Account No. 19-0733.

Respectfully submitted,
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